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L'ÉTAT MODERNE ET SES FONCTIONS. Par PAUL LEROY-BEAULIEU, Membre de l'Institut, Professeur au Collège de France, etc. Pp. vi., 463. Paris: Guillaumin et Cie. 1890.

THE indefatigable author of the *Traité de la Science des Finances*, and editor of the *Economiste Français*, loses none of his splendid vigor of thought and style as he adds volume after volume to the long list of his political and economic works. If the believers in the continual multiplication of the functions of government have flattered themselves that all the thinkers of first-rate ability who know anything about the details of modern industrial conditions, municipal administration, educational progress, and social reform, have for some time been converted to the notion that salvation is of the State, they will find themselves not rudely, but most artistically and entertainingly undeceived, as they turn the pages of *L'Etat Moderne*. The thought running through the volume is that of the essential distinction between Society—a plastic, growing, ever-changing organism—and the State: a product and agent of society, but less than society, necessarily uniform in its methods, slow to conceive and to move, devoid of inventive faculty, and lacking the power of rapid adaptation to varying conditions. Corresponding to this thought is a very distinct conception of what constitutes civilization and progress. Civilization is more than the growth of knowledge; it consists also in the growth of moral habits, or aptitudes, in the development of the taste for individual initiative, of the spirit of free association, of the love of saving and of personal responsibility. “For a nation, as for a man, intelligence goes for little without will. It is will that we ought to cultivate; in deadening it by the frequent intervention of the State we enervate the whole nation.” That in this earnest aphorism we have a truth of most serious import, few thoughtful observers of modern educational tendencies will question. The reader will, therefore, be prepared to find in M. Leroy-Beaulieu's

criticism of State education something very unlike the superficial objections often urged against a policy of taxation for educational purposes. The discussion is reduced to the vital and fundamental questions of what true education is, and whether the State, in virtue of its own nature and constitution, can control educational policy without ruining education the thing. Few readers, perhaps, will accept the conclusions offered, but it is most earnestly to be hoped that many will be stimulated to think seriously on the problems raised. The most satisfied believer in State sufficiency will hardly fail to be impressed by the criticism of the State as an agency that inevitably is and always must be *morally* weak. As would be expected, M. Leroy-Beaulieu gives a large proportion of his space to a consideration of the relations of the modern State to great industrial undertakings, and the quasi-public works of municipalities. Knowing thoroughly the financial aspects of these matters, he often makes short and sharp work of the assumptions of the advocates of State ownership. Yet he by no means falls back on an unmodified *laissez faire*. He shows that the State has a distinct function to perform in protecting public rights and social order, but insists on simplicity of administration and on the greatest freedom of individual initiative consistent with equality of privilege and protection.

F. H. G.

MASON'S VETO POWER. Harvard Historical Monographs, No. 1. "The Veto: Its Origin, Development, and Function in the Government of the United States (1789-1889)." By EDWARD CAMPBELL MASON, A.B. Paper, pp. 232. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1890.

HARVARD, following the example of several other Eastern universities, has adopted the plan of publishing some of the theses produced by her more advanced students of history and politics; and of this plan the publication of Mr. Mason's excellent monograph on *The Veto Power* is the first fruit. It is certainly a most creditable piece of work, pains-